Indo-France Trade Agreement

2382. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have discussed the delicate issue of market access and agreed for periodical bilateral consultation to dismantle trade barriers;

(b) if so, whether any discussion between the two countries in this regard was held;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDDY): (a) to (e) The 11th Session of the Indo-French Joint Committee was held in New Delhi on 5th December, 2001. According to the Joint Statement issued at the end of the meeting, the two sides, *inter alia,* discussed the issue of market access and agreed for periodical bilateral consultation to dismantle trade barriers. They also held discussions on ways and means of stepping up bilateral cooperation in sectors such as mineral exploration and development, agriculture, energy, information technology, telecommunications, urban development, bio-technology, financial cooperation, etc.

New EXIM policy

2383. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had decided to launch a masssive programme to achieve one per cent share of the global trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the new EXIM policy of Government reflects this decision and if so, the details thereof; and